

VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAS #0589 1441021
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 231021Z MAY 08
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5847
INFO RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO 0565
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 1611
RUEHNK/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT 6383
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2728
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 2358
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 7213
RUZEHAA/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 000589

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/21/2028
TAGS: PTER PREL AG ML MR NG
SUBJECT: MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS ALGERIA

REF: A. ALGERIA 00548
1B. BAMAKO 00463

Classified By: Ambassador Robert S. Ford. Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

11. (U) On May 20, the Algerian media reported that Malian Foreign Minister Moctar Ouane visited Algeria on May 19 to secure Algerian re-engagement on negotiations between the Malian government and Tuareg rebels in Northern Mali. According to press reports, after Ouane met with President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, he announced that he was pleased that President Bouteflika had agreed to resume the Algerian role as mediator in the crises that have shaken northern Mali (also reported ref b).

12. (C) MFA Director General for African Affairs Ismail Chergui (A/S equivalent) told Ambassador on May 20 that the press reports were accurate and Algeria had agreed to resume its mediator role. Chergui did not know when the next round of discussions would resume. He did indicate a lingering uncertainty towards working with Mali, given past problems between the two countries. Chergui added that Algeria had heard Libya was planning to bring Libyan and Nigerien Tuaregs to meet with Malian Tuaregs in Mali but the Malians had not given the Algerians a good feel for the goal of such a meeting. He noted that this was an example of the kind of activity between Mali and Libya that raises doubts in Algeria.

FORD